



*Charlton
Classics*

NO. 2
00288

JUL
80/CDC

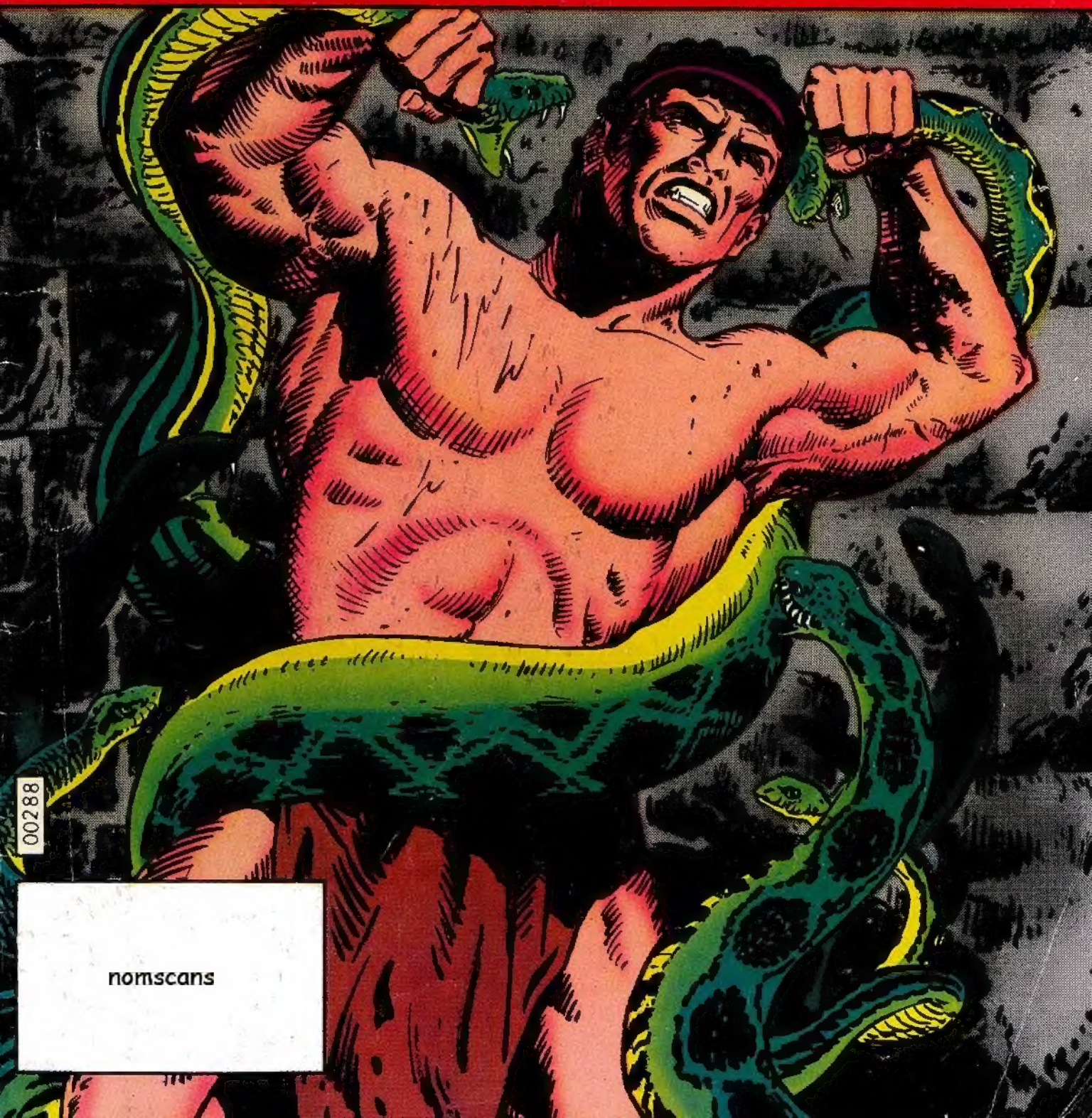
40¢

UK
12 P



Charlton Classics presents

HERCULES



00288

nomscans

HERCULES

HAVING SLAIN THE FEARED LION OF NEMEA, HERCULES SEEKS TO PERFORM THE SECOND OF THE TWELVE TASKS ASSIGNED TO HIM BY THE GODS...MORTAL COMBAT WITH GERION, A GIANT WITH THREE PHYSICAL FORMS.

WE
WILL...

...SLAY...

...YOU, MAN-GOD!

ONE MONSTER...IN THREE BODIES!
I FEAR HIM NOT, FOR I AM HERCULES
...BUT WHERE DO I BEGIN?

IT WOULD SEEM THAT
THE TRIPLE-BODIED ONE
IS TOO FORMIDABLE EVEN
FOR MY SON!

THE YOUNG UPSTART
WILL PERISH! I, HERA,
AM PLEASED!

when man
meets
MONSTER!



CHARLTON CLASSICS Vol 1, No. 2, July, 1980.

Published bimonthly by CHARLTON PUBLICATIONS INC at Charlton Building, Division St Derby Conn 06418 John Santangelo Jr Publisher George R Wildman, Executive Editor © Copyright 1980 Charlton Publications, Inc International copyright secured. All rights reserved Printed in USA The stories, characters and incidents portrayed in this periodical are entirely fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended This magazine has been produced and sold subject to the restrictions that it shall only be resold at retail as published and at full cover price It is a violation of these stipulations for this magazine to be offered for sale by any vendor in a mutilated condition, or at less than full cover price National Advertising Representatives Dilo 114 E 32nd St New York NY 10016 (212-686-9050). Reprinted Material Copyright 1967, 1975

IN A SHADY GLEN NEAR THE CITY OF ATHENS, THE MIGHTY HERCULES...SON OF ZEUS AND A MORTAL WOMAN...SPEAKS UP AT A CLOUDLESS SKY...AND HIS FATHER LISTENS...

HEAR ME, O MIGHTY KING OF THE IMMORTALS! I WOULD JOIN YOU IN LOFTY OLYMPUS! I WOULD TAKE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG THE GODS!

THIS CAN NOT BE, HERCULES!



BUT WHY NOT, FATHER! I HAVE DONE BATTLE WITH THE AWESOME LION OF NEMEA, AND VANQUISHED THE BEAST, AS YOU COMMANDED!



AND A NOBLE FIGHT IT WAS, FULL WORTHY OF THE MIGHTIEST MAN ON EARTH! BUT THE COUNCIL OF THE IMMORTALS HAS DECREED THAT YOU MUST PERFORM TWELVE TASKS BEFORE YOU MAY DWELL AMONG US!

THEN WHAT IS THE SECOND? TELL ME, FATHER, FOR I AM IMPATIENT WITH MY LOT HERE!



NEXT, YOU MUST CONQUER GERION...A GIANT WHOSE SOUL INHABITS THREE SEPARATE BODIES! LOOK UPON ONE OF THEM!

A FORMIDABLE FOE, I WARRANT, JUDGING FROM THE IMAGE OF HIM YOU HAVE CREATED!



HIS PALACE LIES AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE GREAT SEA!

I SHALL GO THERE AT ONCE!



FARE YOU WELL, MY CHILD!

HMMPH! HAVE YOU BEEN CONVERSING WITH THAT PUNY MORTAL AGAIN? YOU KNOW...HOW MUCH HE UPSETS ME!





I THINK THE MORTAL IS COMELY! WERE I HUMAN, I WOULD LIKE HIM VERY MUCH!

AYE, GODDESS OF LOVE! HE RESEMBLES HIS MOTHER... THE MOST HANDSOME FEMALE EVER TO TROD THE EARTH!

MUST YOU ALWAYS SPEAK OF YOUR FIRST WIFE SO ADMIRINGLY? SHE IS LONG SINCE DEAD! I... HERA... AM A BETTER COMPANION FOR ZEUS THAN ANY MERE WOMAN COULD HOPE TO BE! FOR I SHALL NEVER DIE!



THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, IS TRUE!

WHA-A-AT?

NOTHING, MY DEAR! I WOULD SLEEP NOW! TAKE LEAVE OF ME, IF YOU PLEASE!



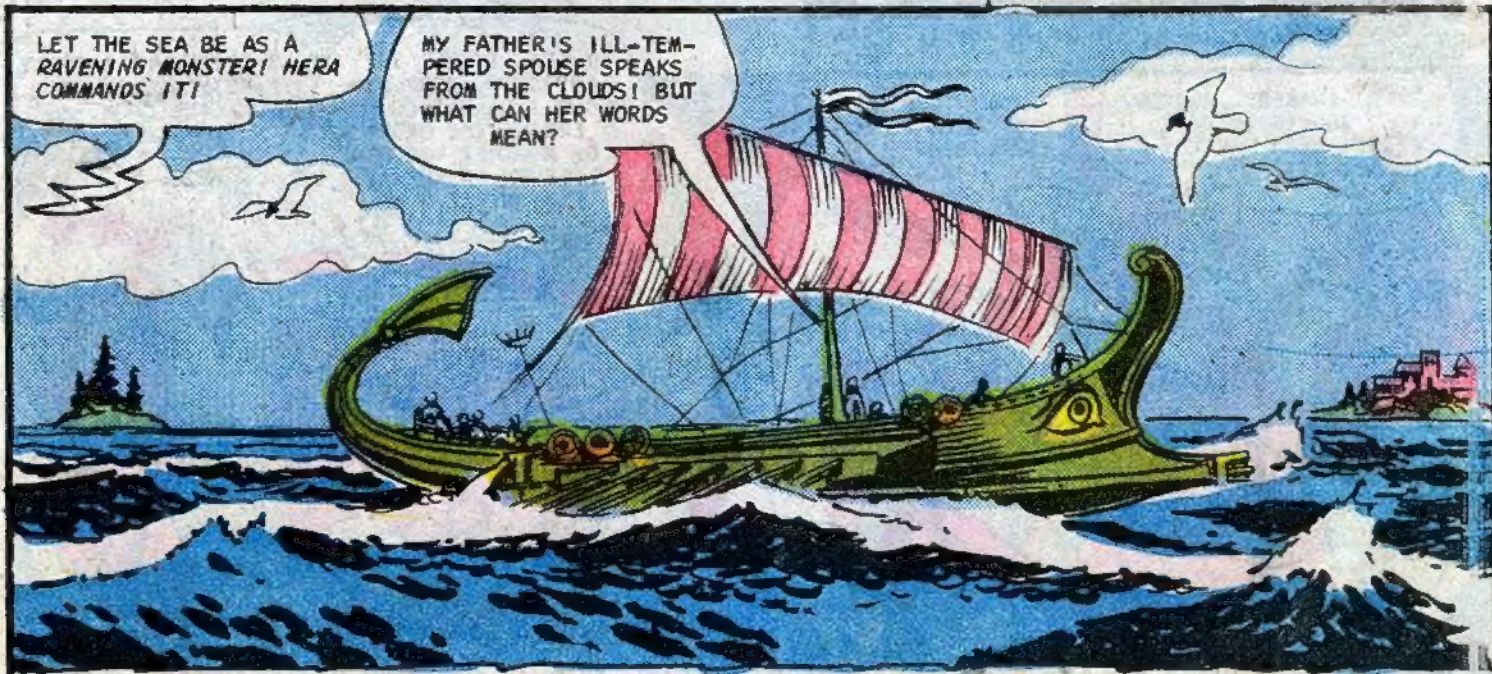
SO LONG AS HERCULES LIVES, HE WILL REMIND ZEUS OF THAT EARTHLY HUSSY! I MUST SEE TO IT THAT HERCULES PERISHES! A WATER BEAST SHALL DO THIS FOR ME!



AS THE GODDESS PUTS HER PLAN INTO ACTION, HERCULES IS CROSSING THE PLACID OCEAN...



A GLORIOUS DAY TO BE ADVENTURING! IF EARTH IS SO FAIR A PLACE, OLYMPUS MUST EXCEED MY FONDEST DREAMS!



LET THE SEA BE AS A RAVENING MONSTER! HERA COMMANDS IT!

MY FATHER'S ILL-TEMPERED SPOUSE SPEAKS FROM THE CLOUDS! BUT WHAT CAN HER WORDS MEAN?

HERCULES' QUESTION IS ANSWERED IMMEDIATELY, AS THE CALM OCEAN SUDDENLY DARKENS... RISES UP...

...ASSUMES THE FORM OF A FIERCE, RAGING BEHEMOTH.

BY THE STARS, HERE IS A WETNESS
TO BE RECKONED WITH! IT SEEKS TO
DAMPEN THE SPIRIT OF HERCULES
PERMANENTLY! IT FLINGS MY SHIP
LIKE A TWIG!



WHEN I STRIKE IT,
I STRIKE ONLY COOL
LIQUID...



BUT WHEN IT STRIKES ME,
THE LIQUID IS HARD AS
STONE! HOW CAN I BATTLE
SUCH A THING?



UNNNGH! ITS GRIP IS
UNBREAKABLE! IT IS
SQUEEZING OUT MY LIFE!



AT THAT MOMENT, APHRODITE, GODDESS OF LOVE, SEES
THE HERO'S PLIGHT, AND HASTENS TO THE SLEEPING
ZEUS!

ZEUS! AWAKEN...AWAKEN!
YOUR SON IS IN DIRE
PERIL! HERA HAS COM-
MANDED IT!

HUNH! PERIL?
HERCULES IS EN-
DANGERED?



I SEE, I SEE! THE
BOY'S IN TROUBLE!
BUT I CANNOT COUNT-
ERMAND THE ORDER
OF ANOTHER IMMORTAL
...EVEN IF SHE IS
MY WIFE!

TRUE! MAY I SUGGEST,
MIGHTY ONE, THAT
YOU CALL UPON THE
WINDS?





A GOODLY SUGGESTION, APHRODITE! MOST GOODLY! AEOLUS, KING OF THE WINDS, ATTEND ME!

WHAT IS YOUR PLEASURE, MIGHTY ZEUS?



I HAVE NOTICED AN UNSEEMLY DISTURBANCE ON THE GREAT SEA! I WOULD HAVE YOUR CHILDREN RESTORE CALM!

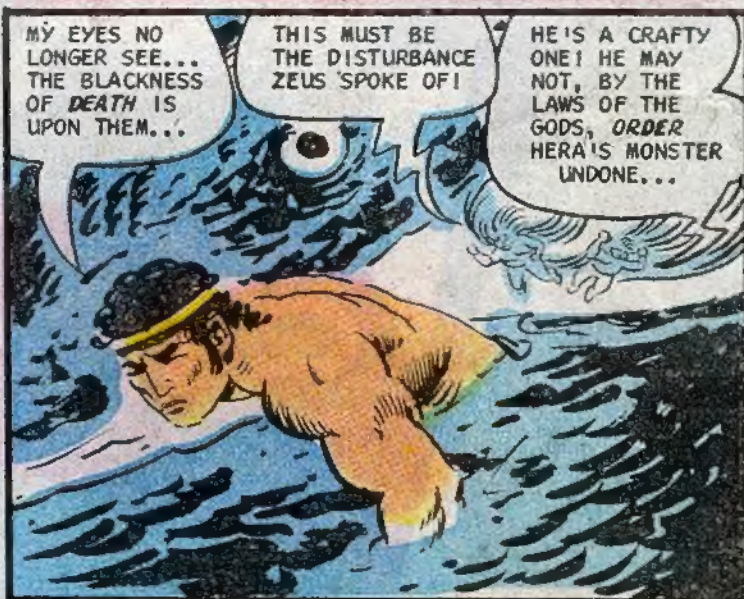


THE WISH OF ZEUS IS MY COMMAND! GO, BOREUS AND ZEPHYR... FLY TO EARTH AND DO AS OUR MONARCH BIDS!

AS YOU SAY, FATHER!

THE WILL OF ZEUS WILL BE DONE!

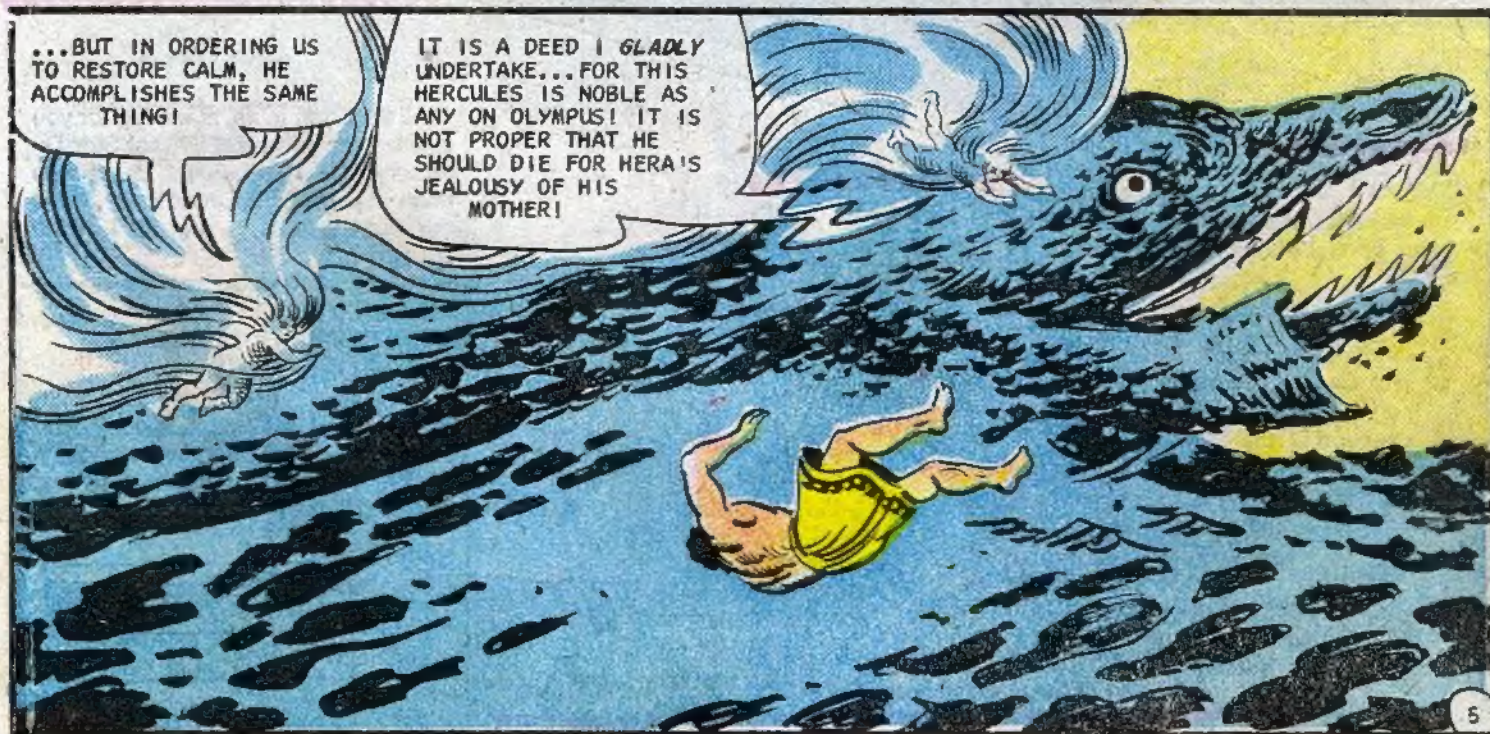
ONLY A HEARTBEAT HAS PASSED SINCE WE LEFT HERCULES... FOR THE GODS SPEAK AND ACT WITH INHUMAN SWIFTNESS! YET, IN THAT HEARTBEAT, THE HERO'S STRENGTH HAS ALL BUT EBBED AWAY...



MY EYES NO LONGER SEE... THE BLACKNESS OF DEATH IS UPON THEM...

THIS MUST BE THE DISTURBANCE ZEUS SPOKE OF!

HE IS A CRAFTY ONE! HE MAY NOT, BY THE LAWS OF THE GODS, ORDER HERA'S MONSTER UNDONE...



...BUT IN ORDERING US TO RESTORE CALM, HE ACCOMPLISHES THE SAME THING!

IT IS A DEED I GLADLY UNDERTAKE... FOR THIS HERCULES IS NOBLE AS ANY ON OLYMPUS! IT IS NOT PROPER THAT HE SHOULD DIE FOR HERA'S JEALOUSY OF HIS MOTHER!

THERE! ONCE MORE,
THE WATER IS CALM!

I SHALL BLOW ACROSS
THE MORTAL'S CHEEK
TO REVIVE HIM!



INSTANTS LATER, HERCULES REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...

THE MONSTER IS GONE! I MUST
HAVE CONQUERED IT WHILE I
SLEPT! IT IS A PITY I REMEM-
BER NOTHING...THE CONQUERING
OF SUCH A CREATURE WOULD MAKE
A FINE TALE TO TELL!



MY SHIP IS GONE! BUT NO MATTER...
LAND IS ONLY SIXTY OR SEVENTY
LEAGUES AWAY...NO MORE THAN A
BRISK EXERCISE FOR A SWIMMER
LIKE MYSELF!



HERCULES' ESTIMATE IS ALMOST PERFECT...AND, AS HE
STEPS ONTO A ROCKY BEACH EXACTLY SIXTY-NINE LEAGUES
AWAY...

HERE I STAND...WHERE NO MAN HAS
EVER SET FOOT BEFORE! A HISTORICAL
OCCASION, IN TRUTH!



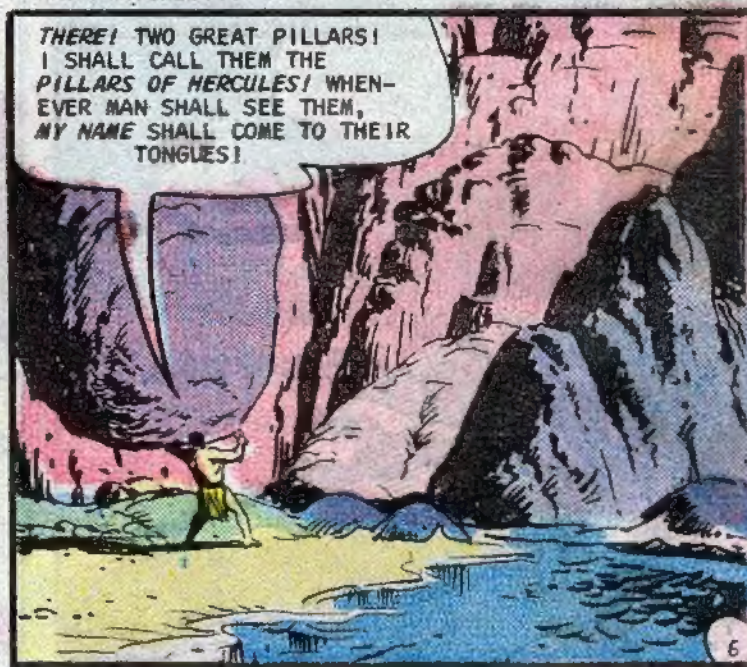
NOTE...SIXTY-NINE LEAGUES EQUALS ABOUT 335 MILES!

IT CALLS FOR A MONUMENT TO
INSPIRE OTHER ADVENTURERS
TO DARING JOURNEYS...NAY,
TWO MONUMENTS! I SHALL BUILD
THEM OF THESE GREAT STONES!



A DAY AND A NIGHT HERCULES LABORED...AND WHEN HE
WAS FINISHED...

THERE! TWO GREAT PILLARS!
I SHALL CALL THEM THE
PILLARS OF HERCULES! WHEN-
EVER MAN SHALL SEE THEM,
MY NAME SHALL COME TO THEIR
TONGUES!



AH, HA HA HA HA HA!
THIS IS THE VAIN FOOL'S
MONUMENT TO HIMSELF...A
PAIR OF ROCK PILES! WHAT
SAY YOU ABOUT YOUR SON
NOW, ZEUS!

TO MY EYES, THOSE
ROCK PILES, AS YOU
CALL THEM...



...ARE MAGNIFICENT
STRUCTURES!

OR WILL BE, WHEN MY
LIGHTNING BOLTS REACH
THEM!



THROUGH THE ETHER STREAK ZEUS' BOLTS, DOWN TO THE STONES...FUSING THEM INTO AWESOME LANDMARKS, WHICH ARE
KNOWN FOREVERMORE AS THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR AND THE ROCK OF CEUTA!



MEANWHILE, HERCULES HAS PROCEEDED SEVERAL MILES
INLAND, UNTIL HE SEES...

YONDER, A SPLENDID CASTLE!
I'LL WAGER THIS IS THE DWELLING
OF GERION...HE OF THE THREE
BODIES!



HUGE, IT IS, AND PLEASING TO
THE SIGHT! I SHALL ENJOY TAK-
ING MY REST HERE AFTER I CON-
QUER GERION!

AND WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK YOU
WILL CONQUER ME,
PUNY ONE?



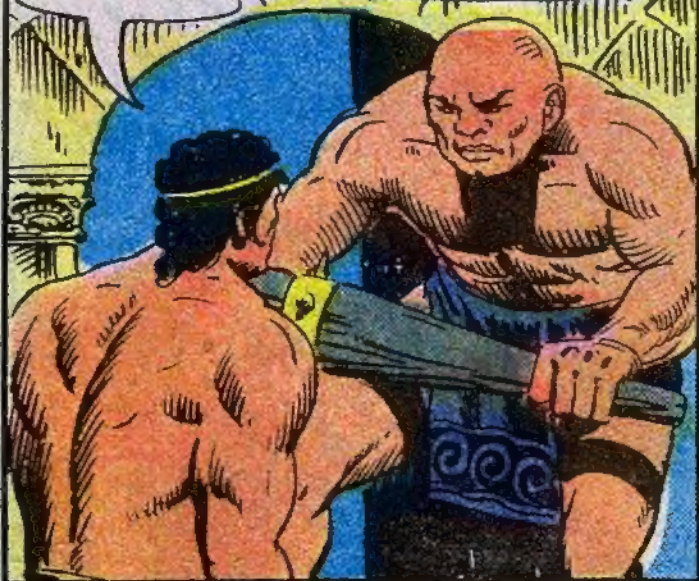
YOU ARE GERION?
I HAD NOT EXPECTED
QUITE SO LARGE AN
OPPONENT!

LARGE, I AM! AND MORE
POWERFUL THAN ANY THOUS-
AND ORDINARY MEN!

IF THAT BE TRUE,
THEN YOUR STRENGTH
IS EXCEEDED ONLY BY
YOUR UGLINESS! FOR
IN TRUTH, THE SWINE
IN THE PEN ARE MORE
PLEASANT TO LOOK UPON
THAN YOURSELF!

PERHAPS BY
INSULTING
WORDS, I CAN
PROVOKE HIM
INTO A FOOL-
HARDY ATTACK!

HOW DARE YOU
SPEAK THUS TO
ME! I SHALL
SWAT YOU LIKE
A FLY!



IF YOUR ACTIONS MATCHED
YOUR BOASTS, I WOULD FACE
AN AWESOME OPPONENT!

SWOOSH



BUT, ALAS, YOUR MIGHT LIES
SOLELY IN WHAT YOU SAY...
NOT WHAT YOU DO! COME, LET
US DRAW TOGETHER...



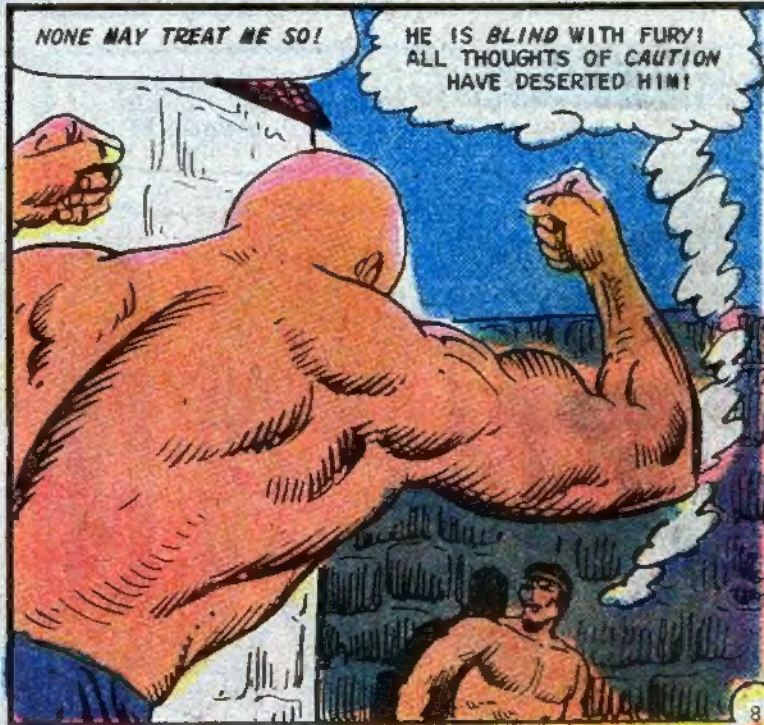
...SO I MAY HAVE THE PLEASURE
OF ADDING A BRUISE TO YOUR UN-
PLEASANT FEATURES!

THUD



NONE MAY TREAT ME SO!

HE IS BLIND WITH FURY!
ALL THOUGHTS OF CAUTION
HAVE DESERTED HIM!



HE CHARGES LIKE AN ANIMAL
...CLUMSILY...STRAIGHT INTO
MY BLOW!



YOUR ATTITUDE INJURES MY
FEELINGS! WE HAVE KNOWN
EACH OTHER LESS THAN AN
HOUR...



...AND ALREADY, YOU ARE SO
BORED WITH MY CONVERSATION
THAT YOU MUST SLEEP!



AS THE VALIANT MORTAL STANDS OVER HIS FALLEN FOE,
TWO PAIRS OF EYES...INSTRUMENTS OF THE SAME MIND...
OBSERVE HIM...

THE MORTAL IS
FORMIDABLE...

...NOT TO BE OVERCOME WITH MERE
STRENGTH! I MUST EMPLOY CUNNING!



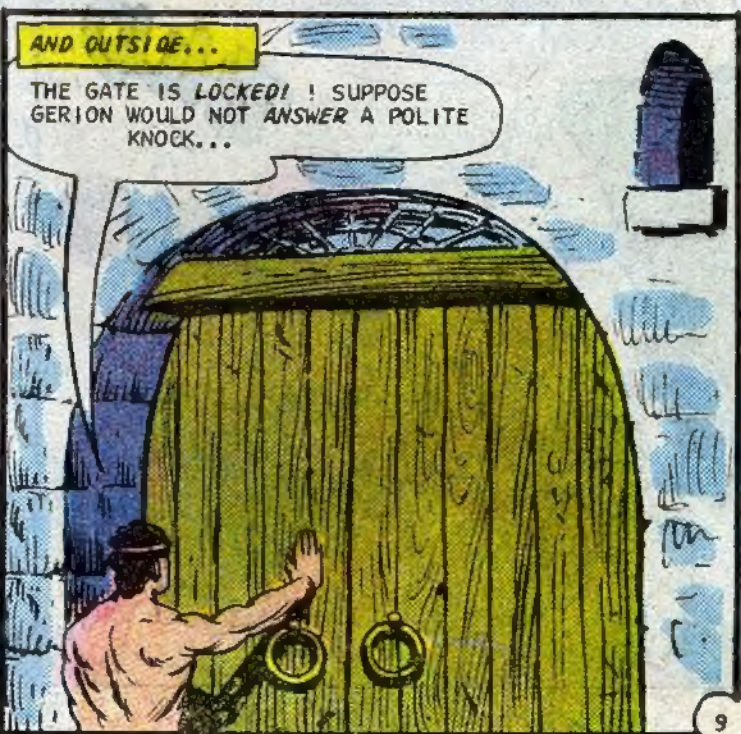
ONE OF MY BODIES
I WILL HIDE...

...WHILE THE OTHER MAKES
READY TO MEET THE MAN
CALLED HERCULES!



AND OUTSIDE...

THE GATE IS LOCKED! I SUPPOSE
GERION WOULD NOT ANSWER A POLITE
KNOCK...



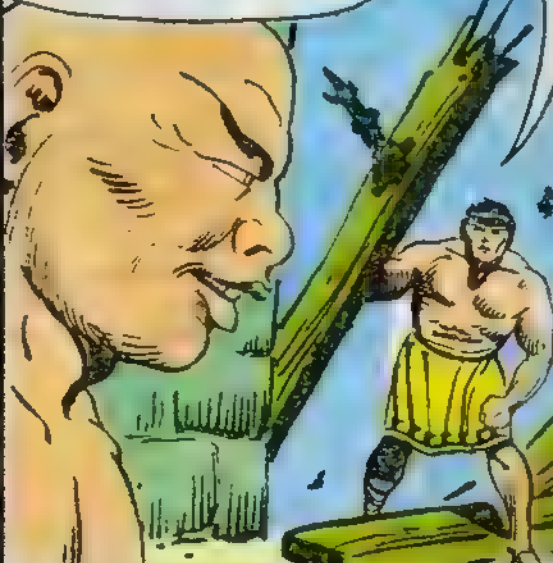
...SO I MUST FORGET POLITENESS,
AND LET MYSELF IN!

CRASH



THERE WAS NO NEED TO USE
FORCE TO ENTER MY DOMAIN,
FRIEND! I HAVE ALWAYS A
WELCOME FOR A FAMED HERO
LIKE YOURSELF!

THAT WAS NO WELCOME
YOUR OTHER BODY GAVE
ME OUTSIDE!



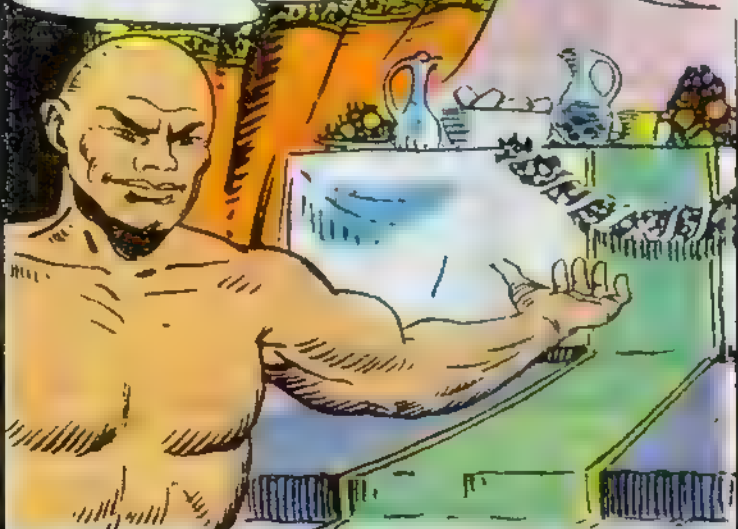
DO NOT TAKE IT AMISS!
OUT THERE, I WAS MERELY
TESTING YOU...TO ASCER-
TAIN THAT YOU ARE AS
POWERFUL AS YOU APPEAR!

YOUR TEST NEARLY
KILLED ME!



AH, YES...SOMETIMES THAT
PARTICULAR BODY OF MINE
BECOMES OVER-ENTHUSIASTIC!
IT IS TRYING, AT TIMES...
HAVING THREE BODIES! BUT
ENOUGH! COME...FILL YOUR
BELLY!

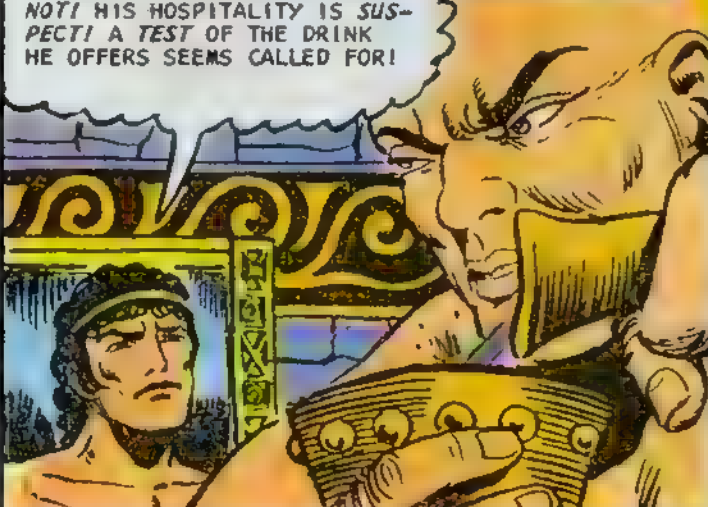
BY THE STARS, I
SEE A FEAST WORTHY
OF MY FATHER,
ZEUS!



MY THANKS FOR THIS MEAL,
GERION! YOUR KINDNESS
MAKES ME SORROWFUL THAT I
MUST DEFEAT YOU ERE I TAKE
MY RIGHTFUL PLACE ON OLYM-
PUS!

WE SHALL DISCUSS
THOSE UNHAPPY
MATTERS LATER, MY
FRIEND! FOR NOW,
QUENCH YOUR THIRST
WITH THIS MEAD!

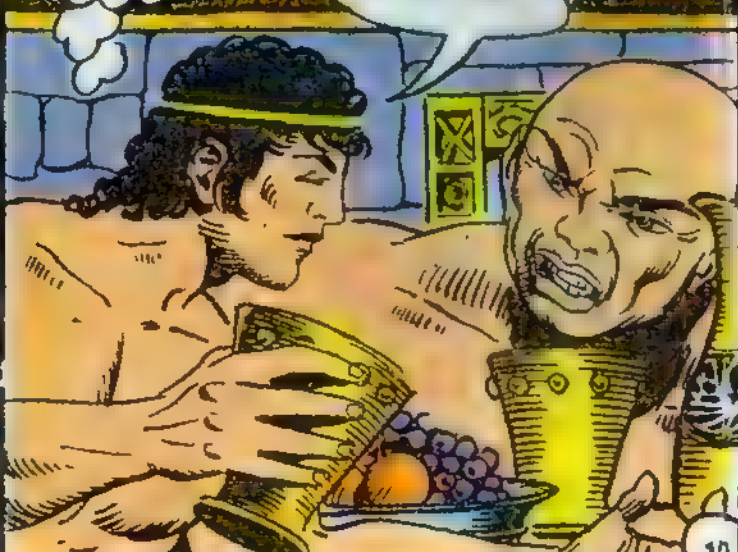
I TRUST THIS SMILING GIANT
NOT! HIS HOSPITALITY IS SUS-
PECT! A TEST OF THE DRINK
HE OFFERS SEEMS CALLED FOR!



A SMALL UNTRUTH WILL
HOLD HIS ANGER AT BAY
IF HE BE HONEST WITH
ME!

IT IS THE CUSTOM
IN MY COUNTRY TO
SPILL A BIT OF
MEAD BEFORE DRINK-
ING, IN HONOR OF
THE GODS!

NO...
NO!





SO! YOU WOULD GUT ME WITH FIRE POTION! YOUR CHEERFUL GREETING WAS A RUSE...TO DESTROY ME!

DID YOU FEEL I WOULD WASTE FOOD AND DRINK ON A MERE MORTAL?

POOF



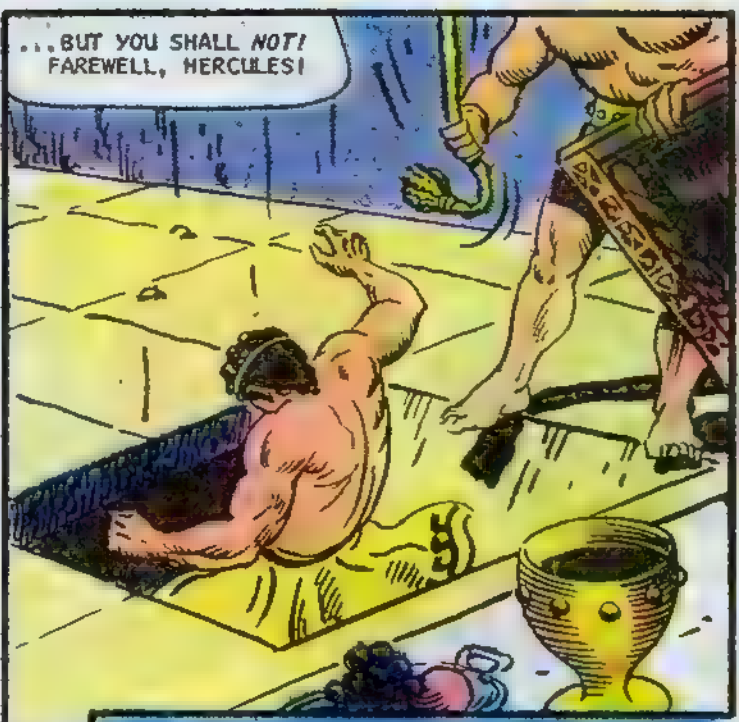
YOU SHALL FEEL THE FULL WRATH OF HERCULES!

NAY! GERION CAN-NOT BE BESTED!



STAND AND FIGHT, COWARD!

I SHALL STAND, FOOL...



...BUT YOU SHALL NOT! FAREWELL, HERCULES!



A NEST OF SERPENTS! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH BRUTES!



A HANDFUL OF WELL-AIMED LIGHTNING BOLTS WILL EVEN THE ODDS AGAINST MY SON!

ZEUS! ZEUS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HUSBAND?

ER...PRACTICING MY MARKSMANSHIP, DEAREST!



SUCH LIES ILL-BECOME THE AWESOME ZEUS! YOU WERE ABOUT TO ASSIST HERCULES, WERE YOU NOT?

NOT MUCH, HERA! I THOUGHT A FEW OF MY VERY SMALLEST BOLTS WOULD NOT BE AMISS!



HMMPH! THE LAW OF THE GODS STATES THAT HERCULES MUST CONQUER OR PERISH WITH NO ASSISTANCE!

YES, DEARI SHE SPEAKS TRUTH! YET, I AM A FATHER... ONE WHO LOVES HIS CHILD! AND I AM DEEPLY GRIEVED TO SEE HIM SO IMPERILED... AND DO NOTHING!

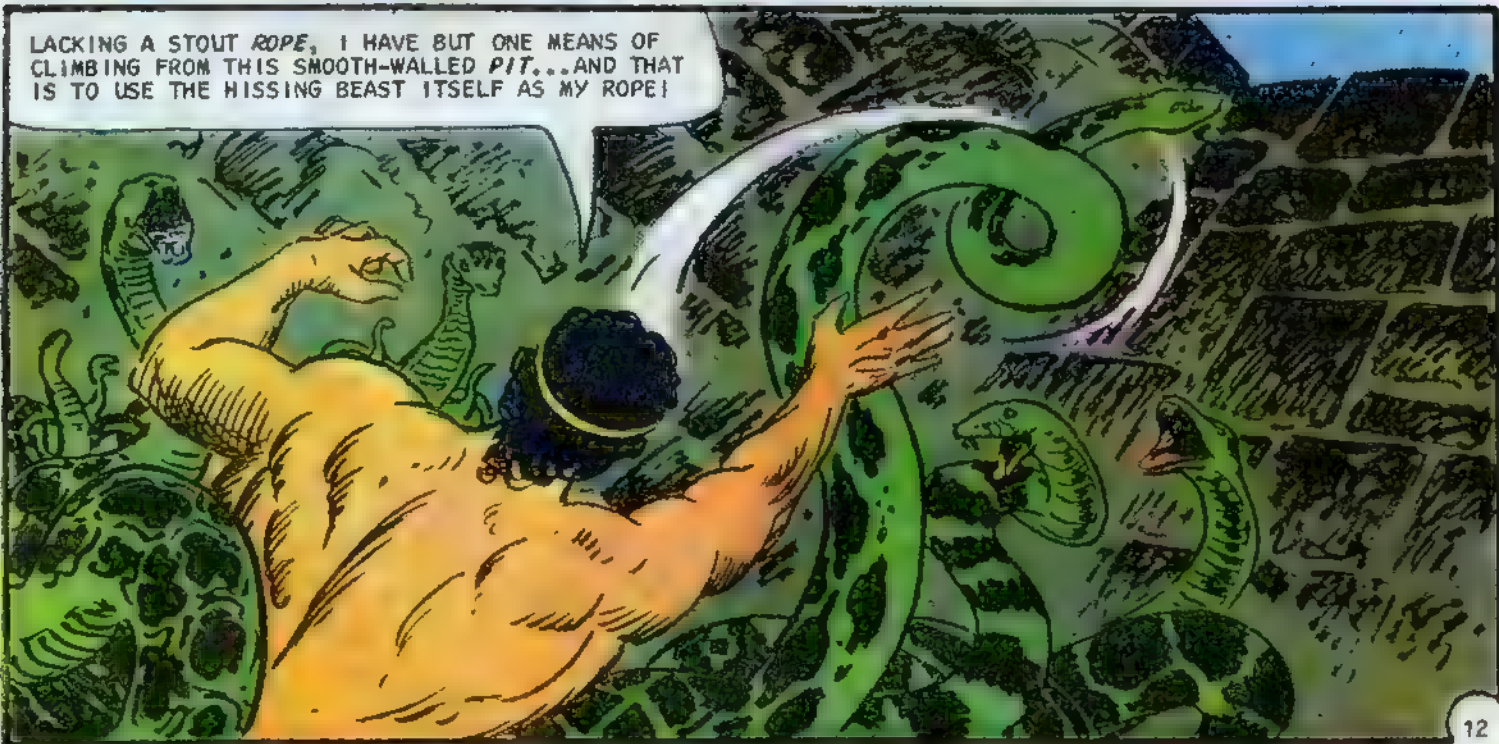


WOULD THAT I COULD AT LEAST PRAY FOR HIM... BUT THERE IS NONE TO HEAR THE PRAYERS OF A GOD!



WHILE THE KING OF THE OLYMPIANS LOOKS ON HELPLESSLY, HERCULES COMES TO GRIPS WITH HIS SERPENTINE FOES...

ONE... OR A DOZEN... OF THESE SLIMY CRAWLERS I COULD DEFEAT EASILY... BUT THERE ARE HUNDREDS HERE! MY ONLY HOPE IS ESCAPE!



LACKING A STOUT ROPE, I HAVE BUT ONE MEANS OF CLIMBING FROM THIS SMOOTH-WALLED PIT... AND THAT IS TO USE THE HISSING BEAST ITSELF AS MY ROPE!



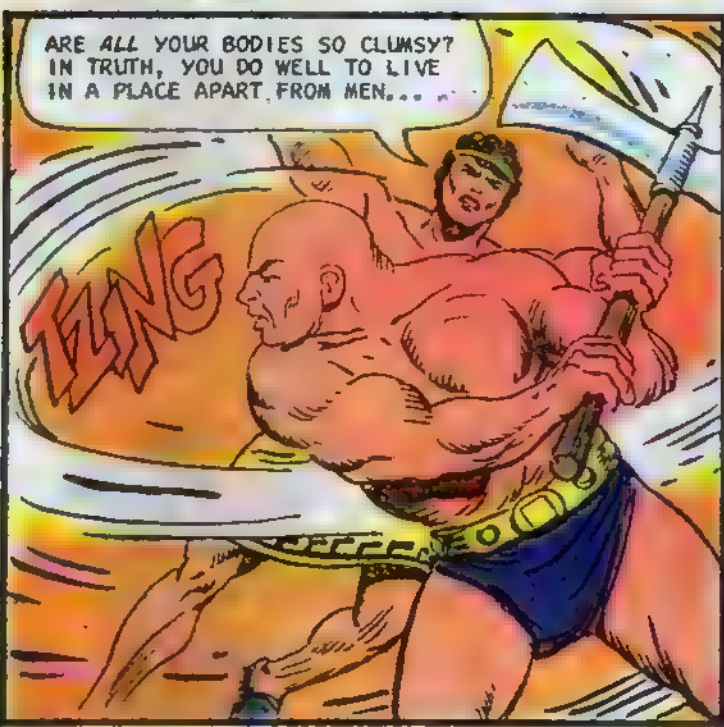
YOU'LL HAVE NO SPORT WITH HERCULES, VILE ONES!

AN INGENIOUS EXIT FROM THE LAIR OF MY PETS, HERCULES!

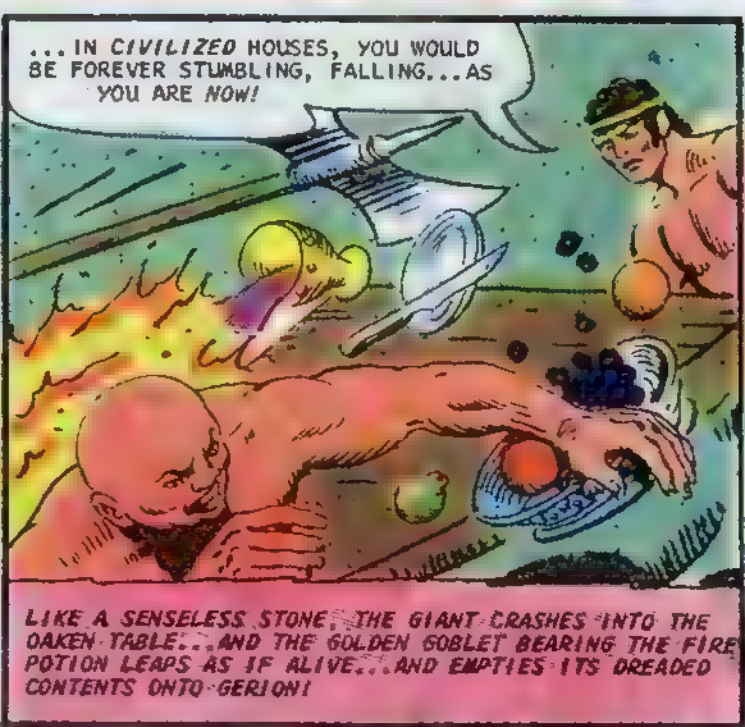


I NEED NO COMMENDATION FROM YOU, GERION!

NO?? LISTEN WELL TO MY WORDS...FOR THEY ARE THE LAST SOUNDS YOU WILL HEAR ON EARTH!

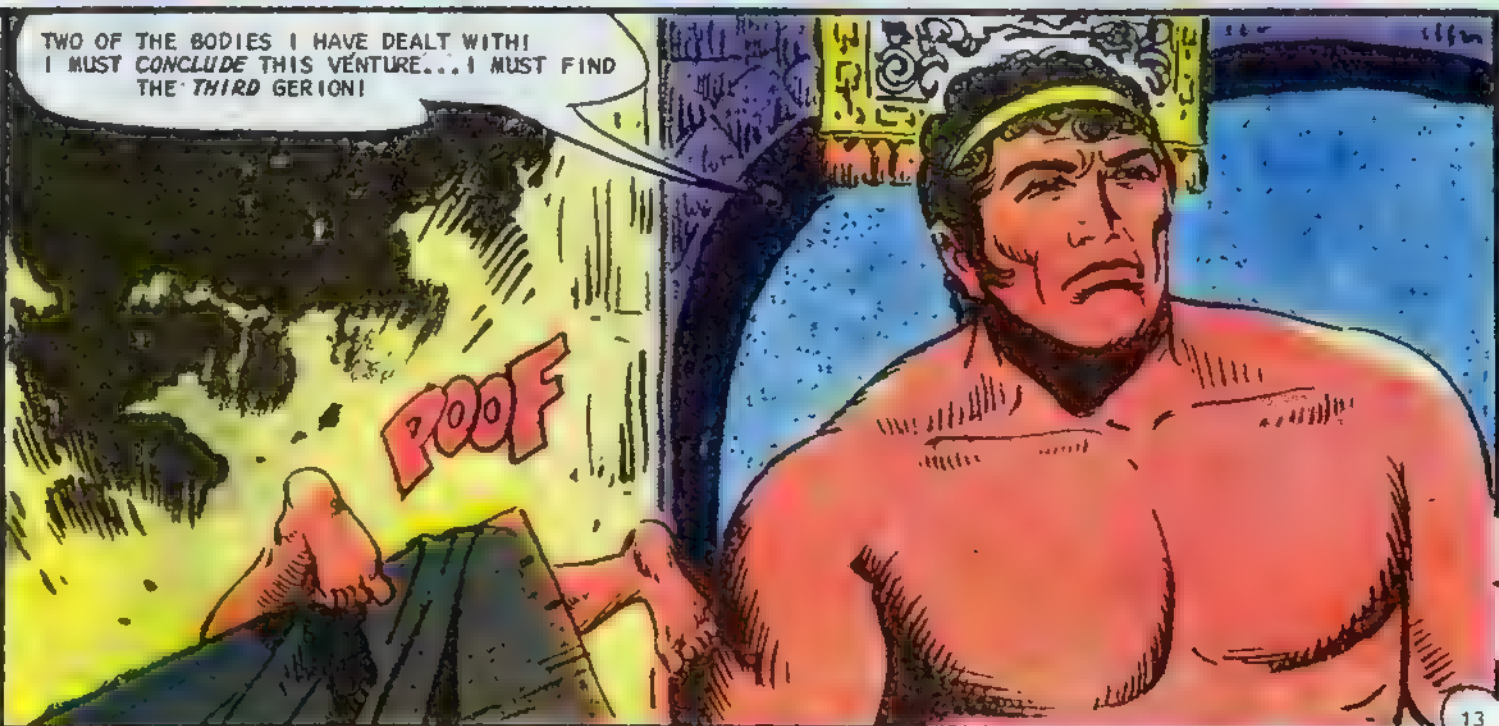


ARE ALL YOUR BODIES SO CLUMSY? IN TRUTH, YOU DO WELL TO LIVE IN A PLACE APART FROM MEN...



...IN CIVILIZED HOUSES, YOU WOULD BE FOREVER STUMBLING, FALLING...AS YOU ARE NOW!

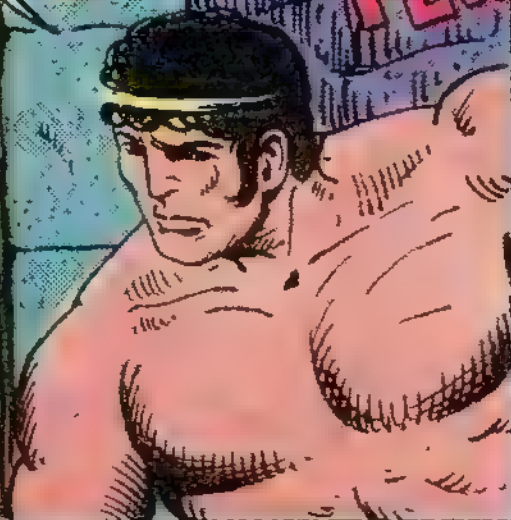
LIKE A SENSELESS STONE, THE GIANT CRASHES INTO THE OAKEN TABLE...AND THE GOLDEN GOBLET BEARING THE FIRE POTION LEAPS AS IF ALIVE...AND EMPTIES ITS DREADED CONTENTS ONTO GERION!



TWO OF THE BODIES I HAVE DEALT WITH! I MUST CONCLUDE THIS VENTURE...I MUST FIND THE THIRD GERION!

WHAT STRANGE NOISE
DO I HEAR?

FLUP FLUP



IT SOUNDS LIKE THE BEATING
OF GREAT WINGS...AND IT DRAWS
NEAR!

FLUP

FLUP

FLUP

FLUP

FLUP

FLUP



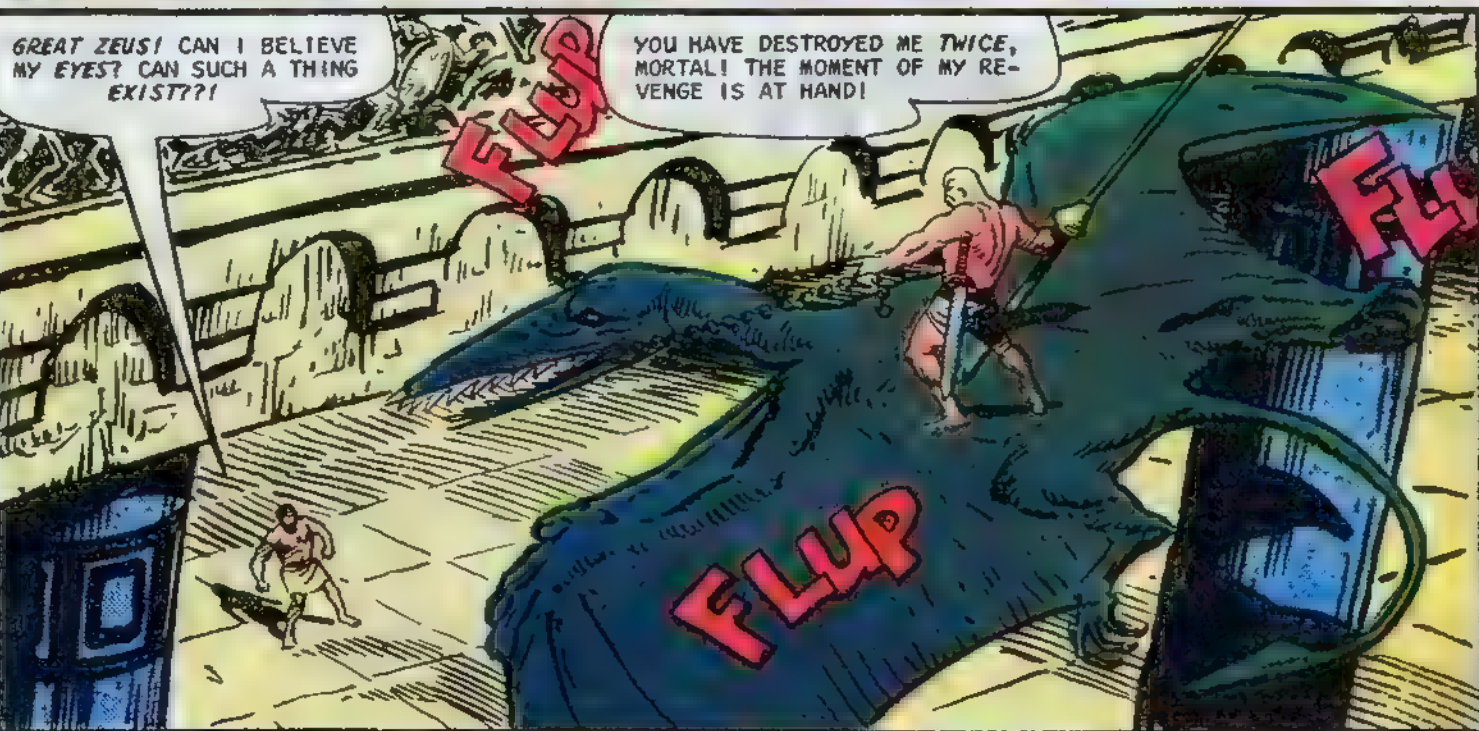
GREAT ZEUS! CAN I BELIEVE
MY EYES? CAN SUCH A THING
EXIST??!

YOU HAVE DESTROYED ME TWICE,
MORTAL! THE MOMENT OF MY RE-
VENGE IS AT HAND!

FLUP

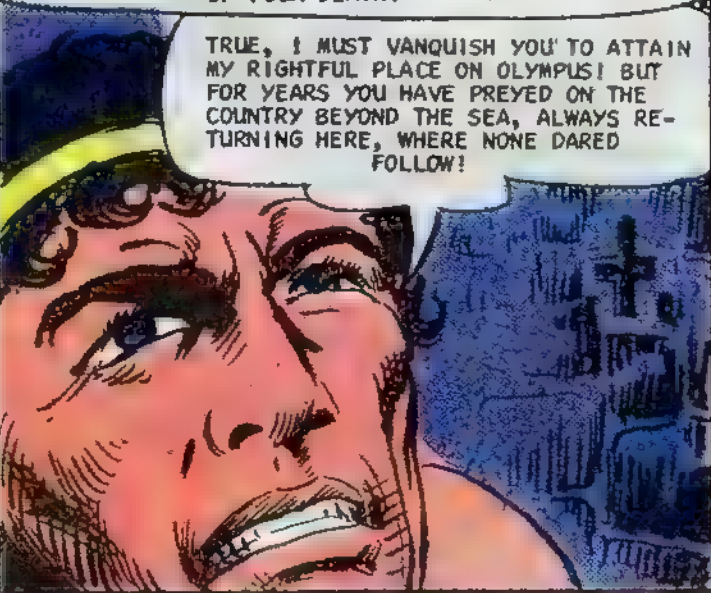
FLUP

FLUP



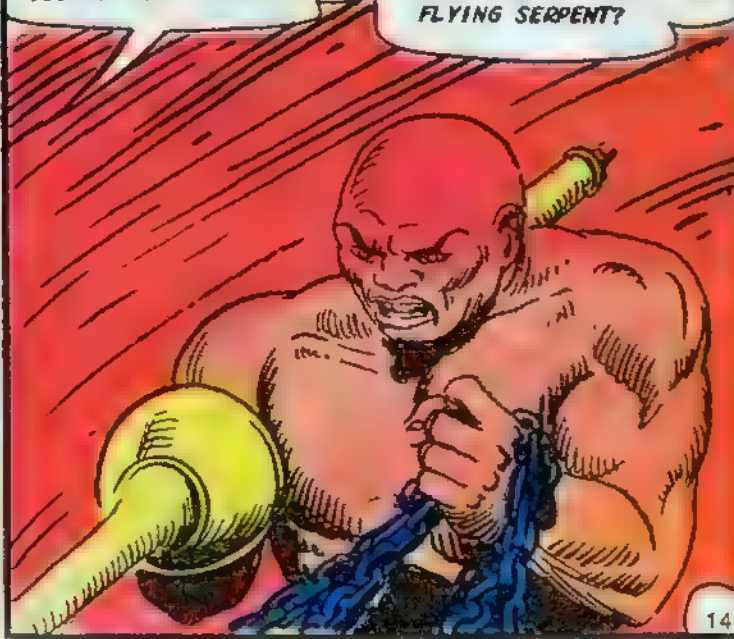
I MEANT YOU NO HARM! INDEED, BEFORE YOU ENCOUN-
TERED MY FIRST BODY, I KNEW NOT OF YOUR EXISTENCE!
YOU HAVE DARED CHALLENGE ME, TO SERVE YOUR OWN
AMBITION...NOW, THAT AMBITION WILL BE THE CAUSE
OF YOUR DEATH!

TRUE, I MUST VANQUISH YOU TO ATTAIN
MY RIGHTFUL PLACE ON OLYMPUS! BUT
FOR YEARS YOU HAVE PREYED ON THE
COUNTRY BEYOND THE SEA, ALWAYS RE-
TURNING HERE, WHERE NONE DARED
FOLLOW!



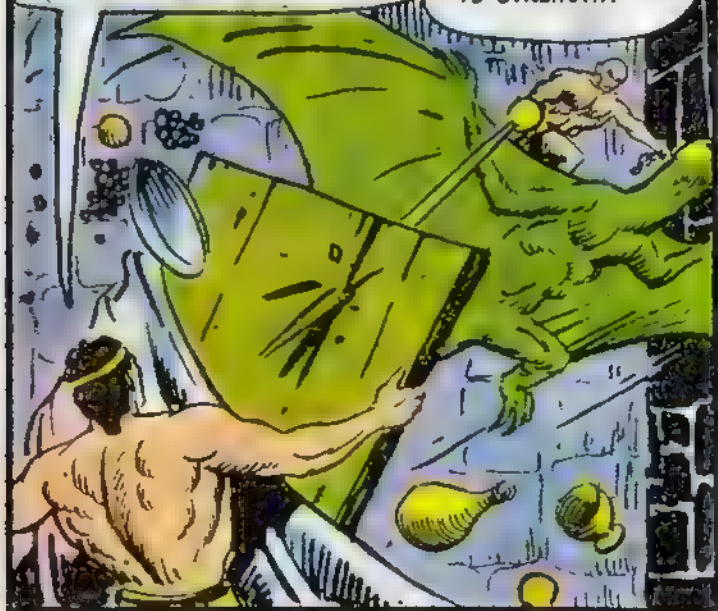
IN ENDING THE TERROR OF
GERION, I SERVE MYSELF
...AND ALL MANKIND!

ARE YOU SO VAIN THAT
YOU THINK YOU CAN SUR-
VIVE THE ATTACK OF THE
FLYING SERPENT?



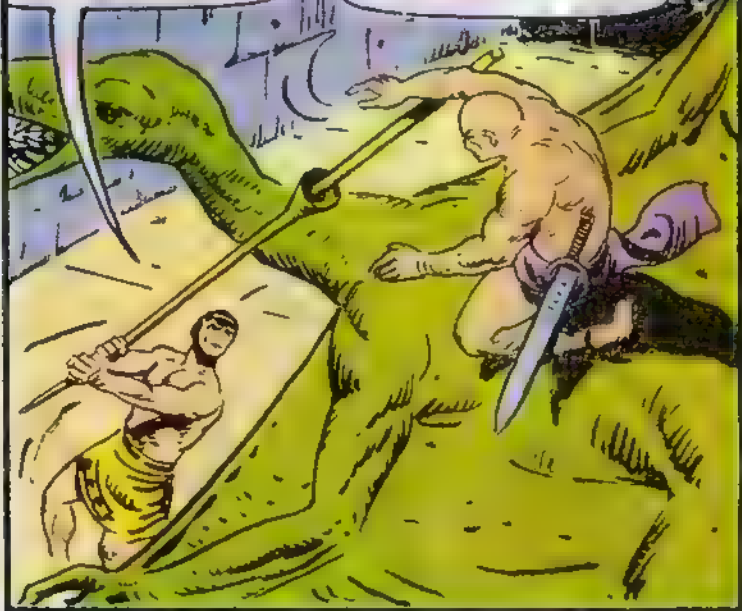
THERE IS NOTHING THAT CANNOT BE CONQUERED BY A MAN OF DETERMINATION AND COURAGE!

DETERMINATION... COURAGE... THESE MUST ALWAYS BOW TO STRENGTH!



NOT IF THE ONE WHO POSSESSES THEM IS BORN OF A GOD!

YOUR PARENT, ZEUS, WILL NOT SAVE YOU FROM THE STING OF MY SERPENT!

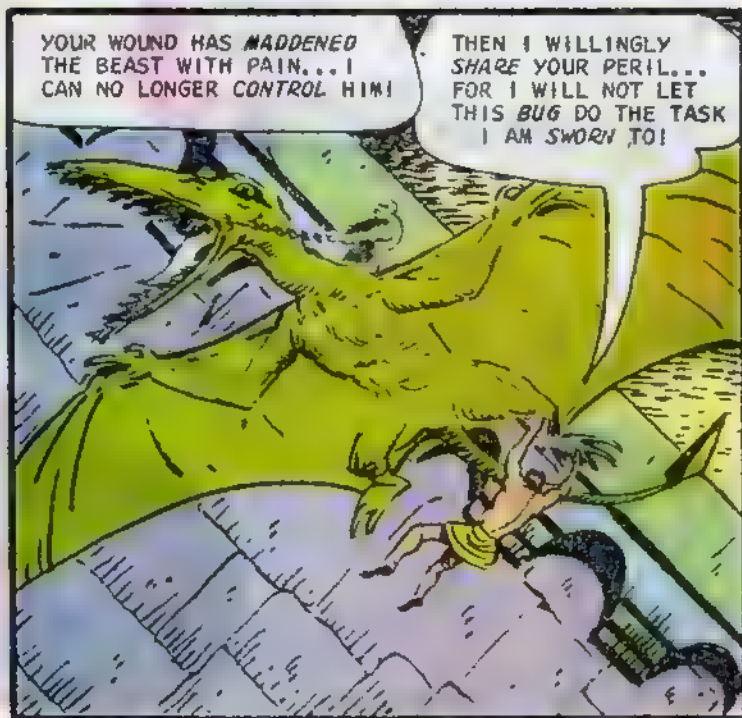


YOU SPEAK TRULY...MY FATHER WILL NOT DO WHAT I CAN DO FOR MYSELF!



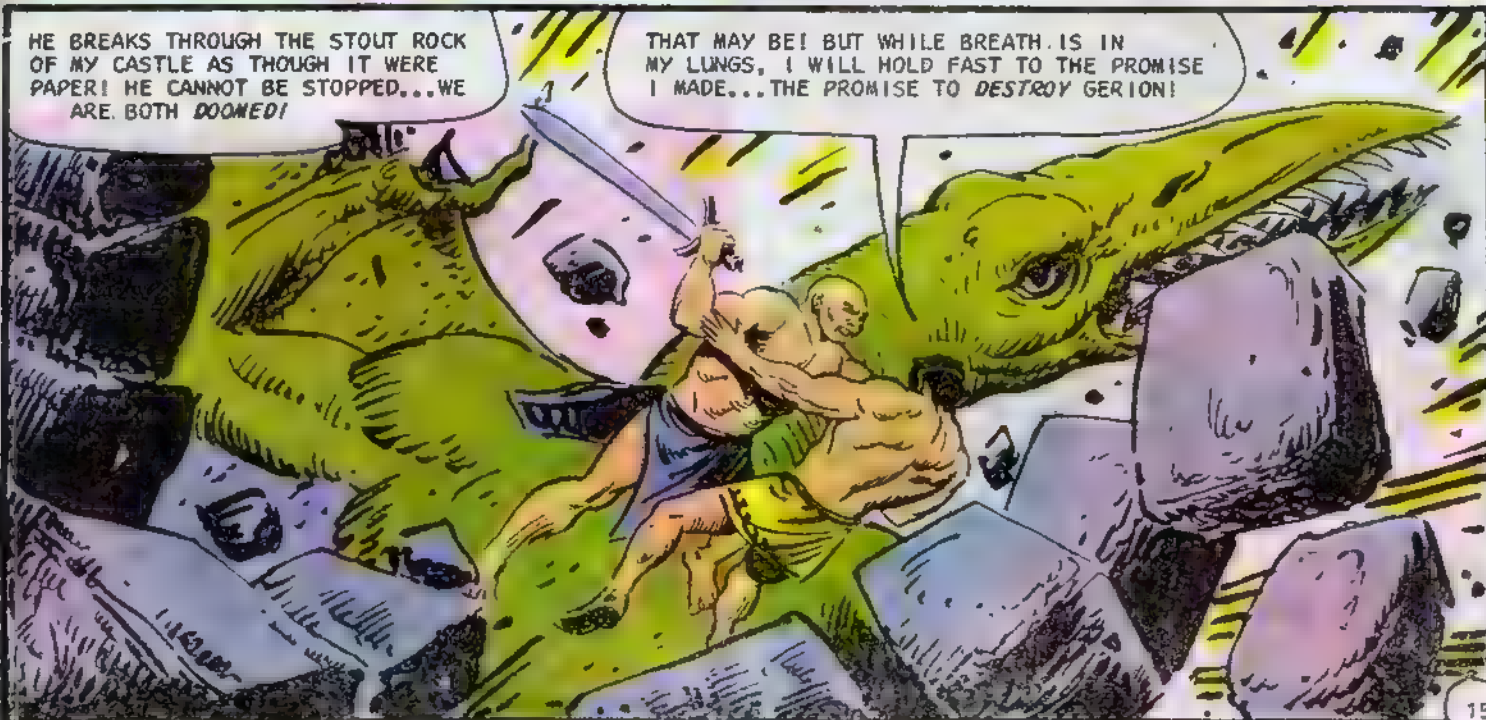
YOUR WOUND HAS MADDENED THE BEAST WITH PAIN...I CAN NO LONGER CONTROL HIM!

THEN I WILLINGLY SHARE YOUR PERIL... FOR I WILL NOT LET THIS BUG DO THE TASK I AM SWORN TO!



HE BREAKS THROUGH THE STOUT ROCK OF MY CASTLE AS THOUGH IT WERE PAPER! HE CANNOT BE STOPPED...WE ARE BOTH DOOMED!

THAT MAY BE! BUT WHILE BREATH IS IN MY LUNGS, I WILL HOLD FAST TO THE PROMISE I MADE...THE PROMISE TO DESTROY GERION!



SO BE IT, VAIN MORTAL! ERE I DIE, I WILL SEE YOU SLAIN AT MY FEET!

UGNN...A TRUE AND POWERFUL BLOW...AT LAST YOU ARE SHOWING YOURSELF TO BE A WORTHY OPPONENT OF HERCULES!

THAT WOUND IS A MERE PROLOGUE TO YOUR DEATH! LOOK WELL UPON THE BLUE SKY, HERCULES...YOU SHALL SEE IT NO MORE!

COME AHEAD! YOUR BLADE CAN TAKE MY LIFE, BUT NEVER MY HONOR! I FIGHT TO THE END!

BOAST WHILE YOU MAY...AAGH!

GERION, BEWARE! THE WING OF THE SERPENT...!

AIEEEEE

BELOW, ONLY ROCK! GERION HAS OUTWORN HIS FINAL BODY!

THE BLOOD OF OLYMPUS INDEED COURSES THROUGH HERCULES' VEINS! NEVER, NEVER HAVE I SEEN A MAN SO VALIANT!

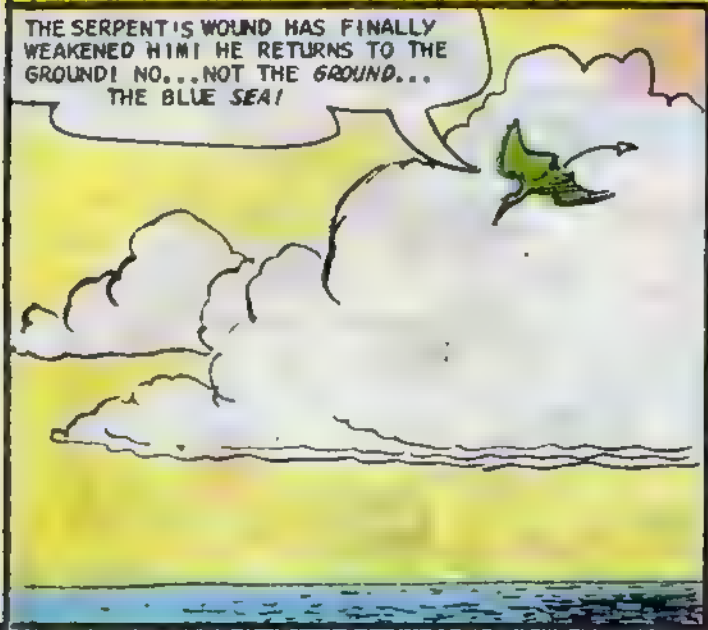
COURAGE MAY COME FROM STUPIDITY, AS WELL AS FROM THE WISDOM OF THE IMMORTALS! DO NOT BE QUICK TO CELEBRATE HERCULES' VICTORY, HUSBAND...

...HE IS YET IN GRAVE DIFFICULTY! THE SERPENT IS HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH! HERCULES MAY JOIN HIS FALLEN FOE BEFORE THE NIGHT COMES!

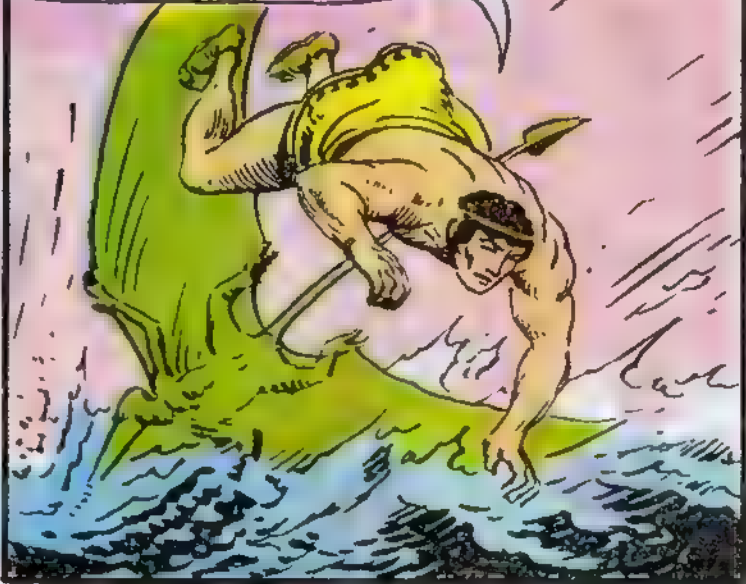
WITH ALL MY HEART, I HOPE NOT, HERA!

ZEUS' HOPE IS REALIZED! TWICE, THE SUN SETS AND RISES, AS HERCULES CLINGS TO HIS TERRIBLE STEED, UNTIL...

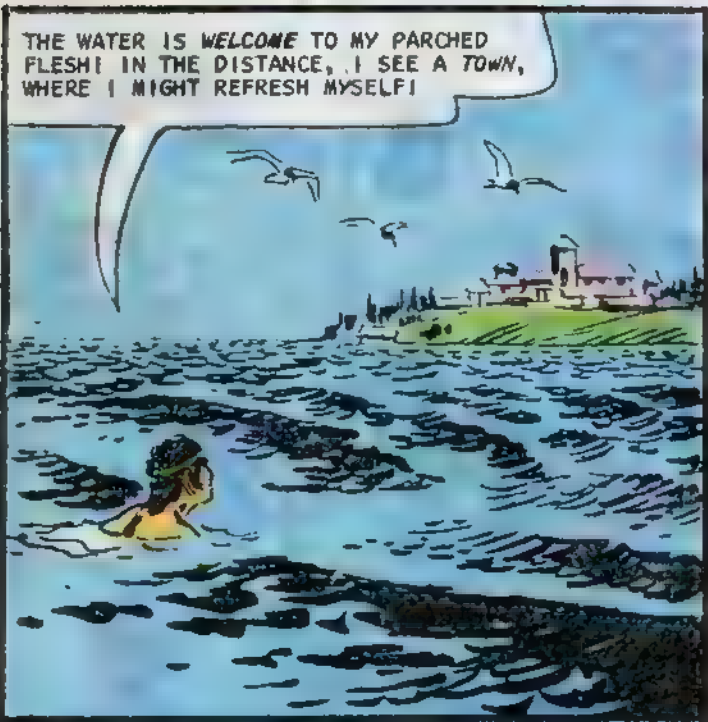
THE SERPENT'S WOUND HAS FINALLY WEAKENED HIM! HE RETURNS TO THE GROUND! NO...NOT THE GROUND... THE BLUE SEA!



I LEAVE GERION'S PET WITH REGRET! HE WILL LIVE FOREVER IN MY MEMORY AS A SYMBOL OF MY TRIUMPH OVER HIS MASTER!



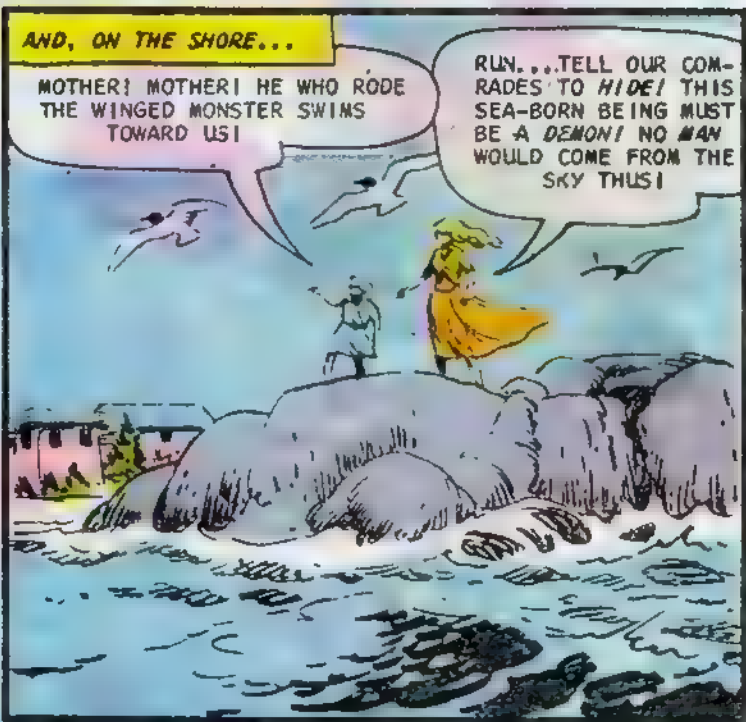
THE WATER IS WELCOME TO MY PARCHED FLESH! IN THE DISTANCE, I SEE A TOWN, WHERE I MIGHT REFRESH MYSELF!



AND, ON THE SHORE...

MOTHER! MOTHER! HE WHO RODE THE WINGED MONSTER SWIMS TOWARD US!

RUN...TELL OUR COMRADES TO HIDE! THIS SEA-BORN BEING MUST BE A DEMON! NO MAN WOULD COME FROM THE SKY THUS!

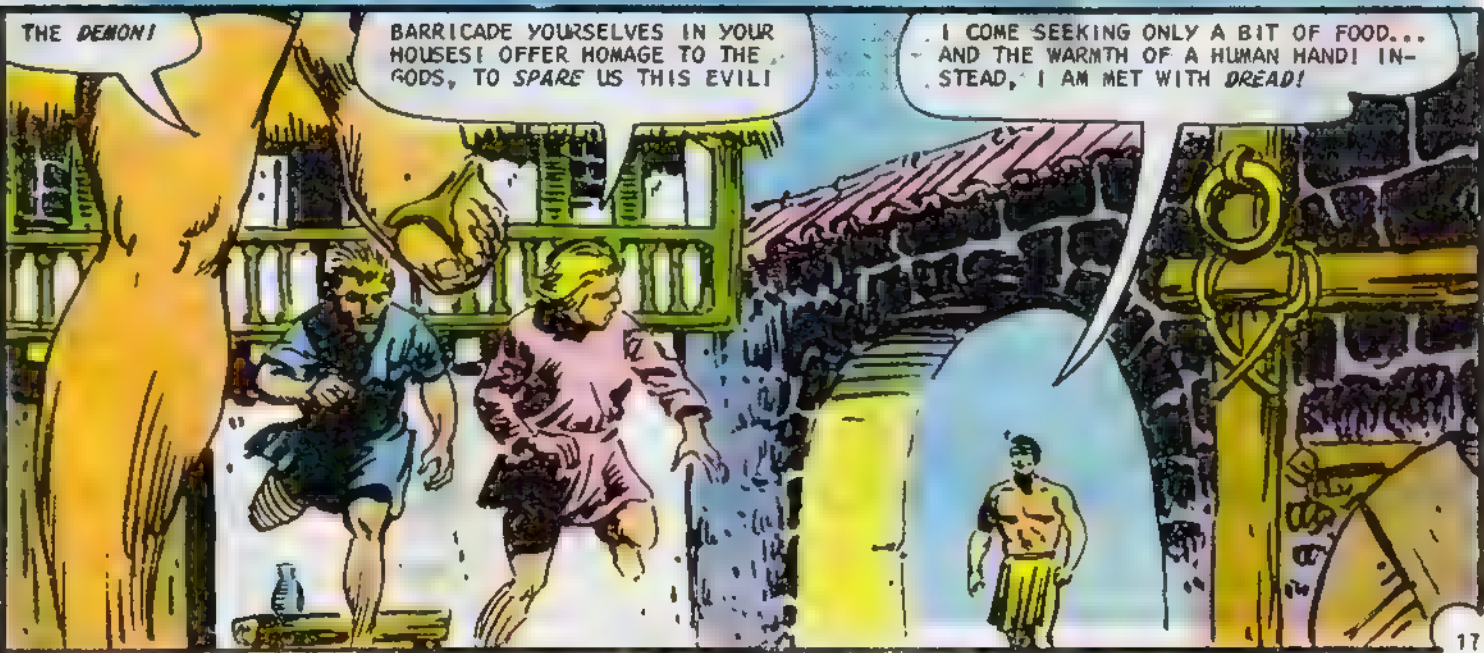


BELIEVING HIS MOTHER'S FEARS, THE LAD DOES HIS ASSIGNED WORK WELL! AND SO, WHEN HERCULES STRIDES INTO THE VILLAGE...

THE DEMON!

BARRICADE YOURSELVES IN YOUR HOUSES! OFFER HOMAGE TO THE GODS, TO SPARE US THIS EVIL!

I COME SEEKING ONLY A BIT OF FOOD... AND THE WARMTH OF A HUMAN HAND! INSTEAD, I AM MET WITH DREAD!

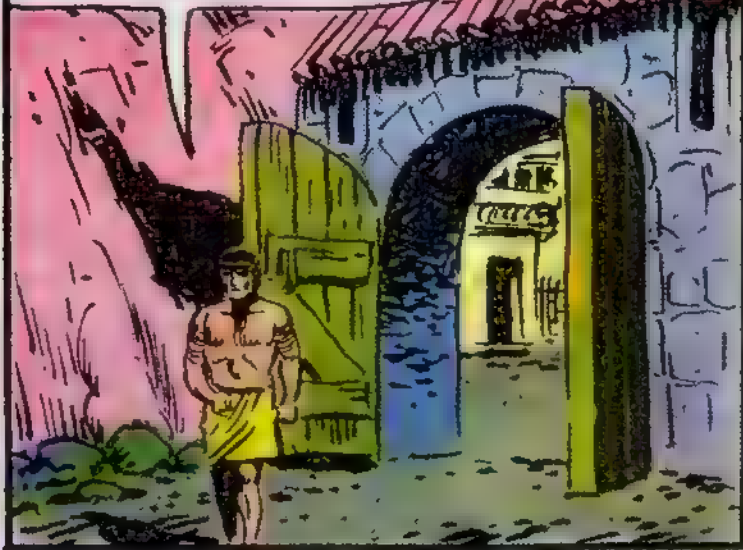


I HAVE NO RIGHT TO EXPECT FRIENDSHIP FROM THESE PEOPLE...FOR I AM NOT OF THEM! I STAND HALFWAY BETWEEN MEN AND GODS...AND BELONG TO NEITHER!



NONE WHO LIVE SHOULD COMPLAIN FOR THEIR DESTINY! YET, SO OFTEN, I AM LONELY...I WOULD GLADLY FORSAKE THE GLORY THAT IS MINE FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF LIVING WITH MY FELLOWS!

BE OF GOOD CHEER, HERCULES!



ZEUS! MY FATHER...! ARE MY WEARY EYES PLAYING TRICKS ON MY BRAIN?



NO TRICKS, MY SON! I AM HERE, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT! SOON HERA WILL MISS ME, AND SHAKE THE VAULT OF HEAVEN ITSELF WITH HER COMPLAINTS! BUT UNTIL SHE DOES, COME, LET US WALK TOGETHER!

DO NOT BE DISHEARTENED, HERCULES! YOUR LOT IS HARD...PERHAPS NONE EVER BORE A MORE PAINFUL BURDEN THAN YOURS, BEING HALF-MAN, HALF-GOD!

THEN IS THERE NO HOPE FOR ME?

THERE IS EVERY HOPE! MAINTAIN YOUR DETERMINATION, YOUR BRAVERY, AND ONE DAY...



...YOU WILL DWELL IN OLYMPUS! I, ZEUS, PROMISE IT!

THANK YOU...YOUR WORDS GIVE ME THE WILL TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!



THIS, MAN AND GOD WALK TOGETHER...A SINGLE PEACEFUL INTERLUDE IN THE TURBULENT LIFE OF HERCULES!

THE END

THE ISLAND WAS AHEAD OF THE "ARGO"
BUT THEY COULD HAVE BY-PASSED IT.
THEY HAD NO REASON TO STOP. YET EACH
CREWMAN IMAGINED THAT HE HEARD A WAIL
OF SORROW COMING FROM THAT STRANGE
HOUSE THAT DREW THEM CLOSER TO...?

JASON

NEVER HAVE I
SEEN A HOUSE OF
SO STRANGE A DESIGN
WHAT DO YOU MAKE
OF IT, TIPHS?

I WOULD THINK
THAT IT COULD BE
THE HOUSE OF A GOD.
I AM BOTH REPULSED
AND DRAWN TO IT,
JASON

EDITOR--GEORGE WILDMAN
SCRIPT--NICOLA CATTI
ART--JOE STATION

D-4521

WE CAME TO SEEK
ADVENTURE AS WELL
AS WEALTH, THEREFORE,
WE WILL SEE WHO OR
WHAT IS AT HOME.

STAY WITH THE CREW, TIPHS
JAX AND I WILL SEE WHAT
DWELLS IN YON CASTLE

AVE, SKIPPER, BUT
TAKE CARE THE OLD
GODS LIVE IN THESE
WATERS AND THEY
ARE A GRUESOME
LOT

THOUGH THE STRANGE CASTLE DID NOT SEEM TO BE FAR AWAY, NEARLY AN HOUR PASSED BEFORE THE TWO MEN HAD ARRIVED AT ITS GIANT DOORS. THE DOORS WERE UNLOCKED BUT HARDLY INVITING.



NO DOOR KNOCKER, NO BELL, NO MEANS TO ANNOUNCE OUR PRESENCE. I GUESS VISITORS ARE NOT EXPECTED.

KREAAAKKK!!!

WITH AN UNBARRED ENTRANCE IT APPEARS AS IF THE CASTLE'S MASTER HAS NO FEAR OF INTRUDERS, EITHER! IT'S A HEAVY DOOR, CAPTAIN. WILL YOU GIVE ME A HAND WITH IT?



BY THE GODS, LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT FURNITURE! WE'VE ENTERED THE DWELLINGS OF A MONSTER.

TRUE, CAPTAIN. PERHAPS IT IS AS TIDYUS HAS SAID. THIS MUST BE THE HOME OF ONE OF THE ANCIENT GODS... A TITAN. THEY WERE ALL GIANTS!



LISTEN SUCH AN ANGUISHED CRY SENDS A QUIVER THROUGH MY BONES. WHERE DOES THAT TORTURED SOUND COME FROM?

FROM UP THERE, CAPTAIN. THE WAIL IS COMING FROM THE TOP OF THOSE STONE STEPS.

BOOOO!!!

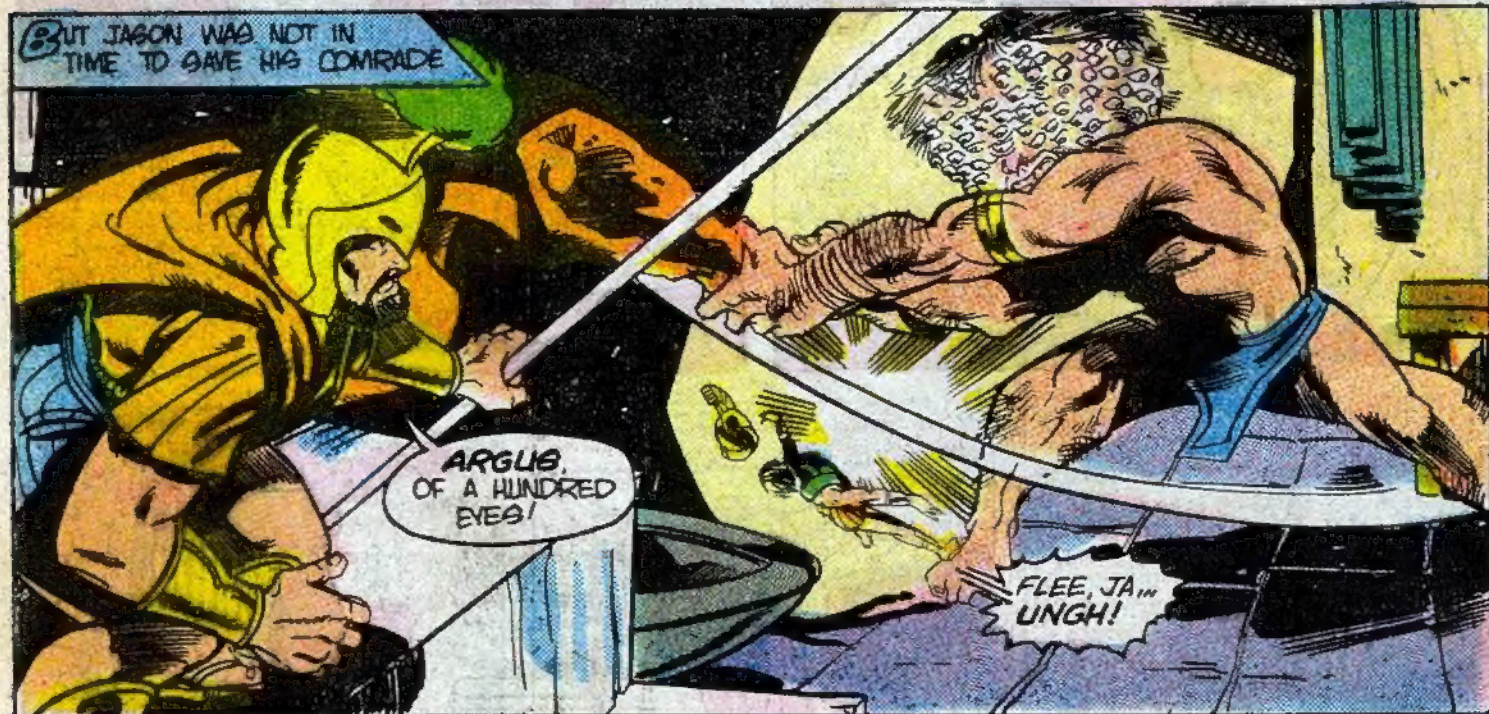


STAY HERE AND GUARD OUR ESCAPE ROUTE. WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BECOME TRAPPED UPSTAIRS SHOULD THE MONSTER RETURN.

AHE, SIR, BUT CALL IF THE THING SHOULD BE UP THERE. I'M CERTAIN IT WILL PROVE TO BE TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN TO HANDLE.



THE CRY MUST HAVE COME FROM THAT ROOM... YES, I HEAR WEeping NOW. SOME POOR GIRL MUST BE ENDURING A GREAT DEAL OF PAIN, BUT IS IT PHYSICAL PAIN OR MERELY THE LONELINESS OF HER CAPTIVITY?



RALLY YOUR CREW TO ATTACK ME BUT YOU WILL NEVER CATCH ME UNAWARES. I REST MY EYES TWO AT A TIME SO THERE ARE ALWAYS NINETY-EIGHT WATCHING FOR TREACHERY.

I WILL FIND A WAY!



ON BOARD THE ARGO, WHILE JASON IS PREPARED FOR BURIAL AT SEA, JASON PLOTS FOR ARGUS' DESTRUCTION WITH TIPHY'S.

FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME, HE SEEMS UNBEATABLE. IS IT WORTH ALL OF OUR LIVES TO AVENGE JAX'S DEATH?

THE GIRL AND HER CHILD MUST BE RESCUED. I CANNOT LEAVE THEM AS CAPTIVES OF THAT MONSTER



I WILL SEND A CHALLENGE TO ARGUS FOR HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT BUT CERTAIN THINGS MUST BE DONE BY THE CREW TO ASSURE THAT WE BATTLE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?



THE CHALLENGE IS ISSUED.

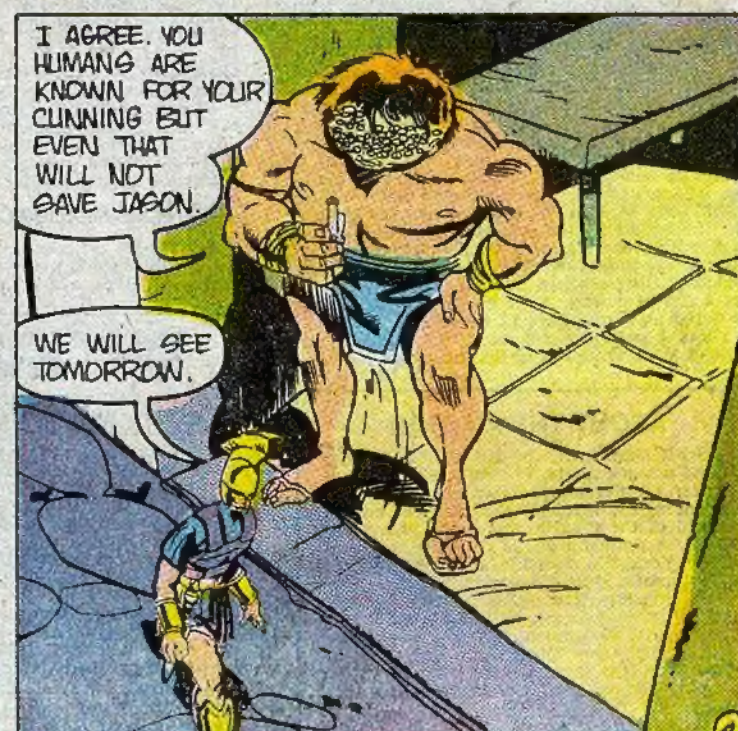
THE FOOL IS ACTUALLY GOING TO ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT HIS THREAT.

YOU WILL MEET WITH JASON IN THAT LITTLE VALLEY AT NOON TOMORROW. THE ENTIRE CREW OF THE ARGO WILL BE THERE BUT THE BATTLE WILL BE SOLELY BETWEEN YOU AND JASON. DO YOU AGREE?



I AGREE. YOU HUMANS ARE KNOWN FOR YOUR CUNNING BUT EVEN THAT WILL NOT SAVE JASON.

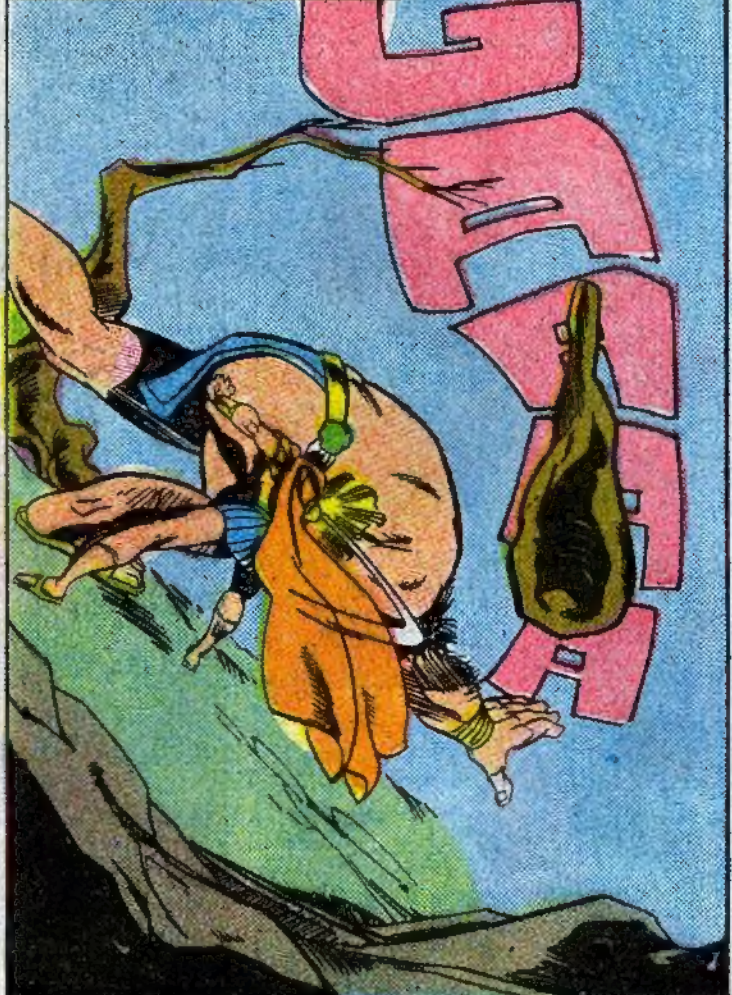
WE WILL SEE TOMORROW.



BUT THE GIANT WAS TOO USED TO HAVING MANY EYES AND SO EVEN THOUGH HE STILL HAD TWO WORKABLE EYES, THE SUNLIGHT WAS DANCING IN THE REBT. HE WAS DAZED AND SWINGING HIS CLUBS WILDLY.



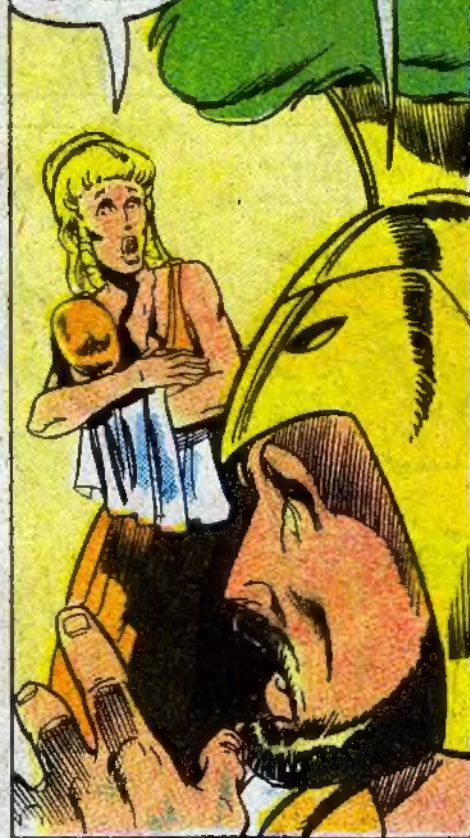
BUT THE TIME FOR BLUFFING WAS OVER.



JASON, WE'VE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! I'VE RELEASED THE GIRL AND YOU MUST LISTEN TO HER!

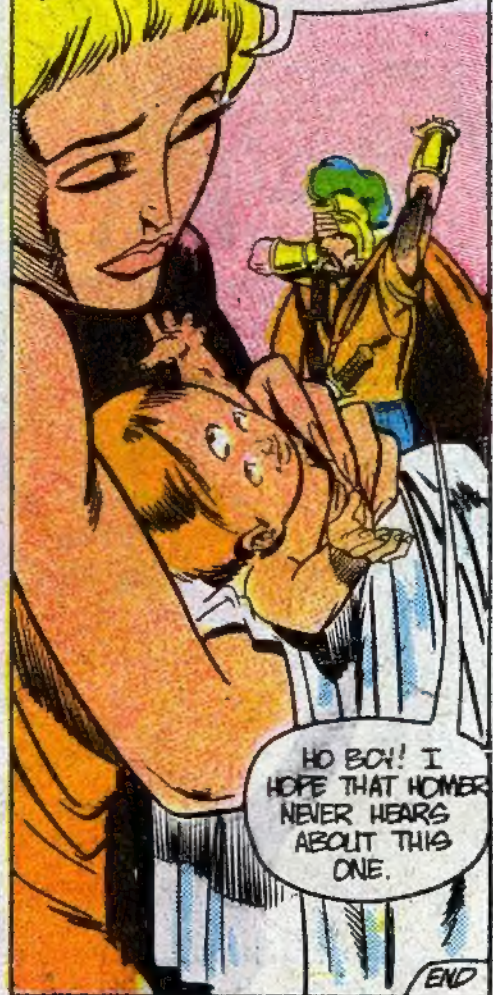


YOU MURDERERS HAVE KILLED MY HUSBAND! HE LOCKED ME AWAY TO PREVENT YOU FROM TAKING ME AWAY!



HUSBAND? ARGUS WAS YOUR HUSBAND AND THAT IS HIS CHILD?

THE OTHER EYES WILL OPEN AS HE GETS OLDER.



HO BOY! I HOPE THAT HOMER NEVER HEARS ABOUT THIS ONE.

END